



**Australian  
Bureau of  
Statistics**

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## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1988

### PHONE INQUIRIES

- *about these statistics and the availability of related unpublished statistics*—contact Fiona Blackshaw on Canberra (062) 52 6561 or any ABS State office.
- *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6007, 52 6627, 52 5402 or any ABS State office.

### MAIL INQUIRIES

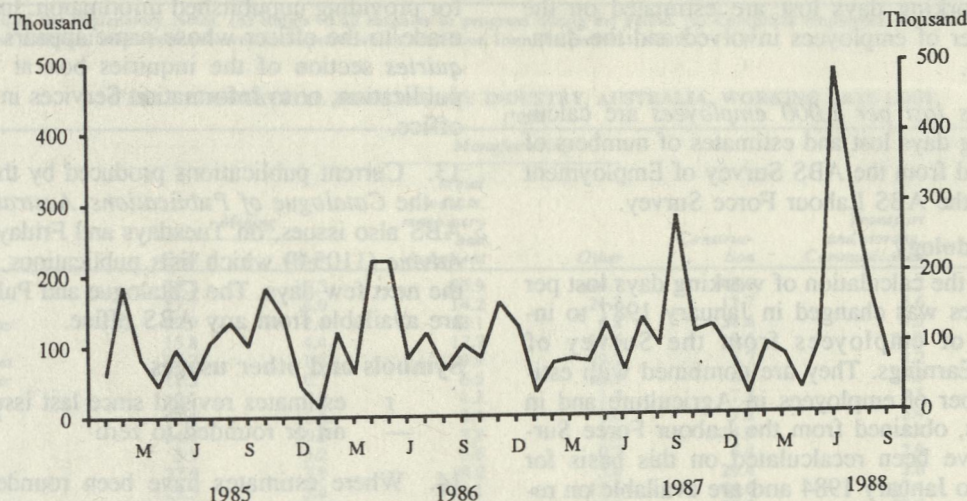
- *write to* Information Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any ABS State office.

### ELECTRONIC SERVICES

- on VIATEL — key \*656#.
- on AUSSTATS — phone (062) 52 6017.
- on TELESTATS — phone (062) 52 5404.

### MAIN FEATURES

#### WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



Numbers of working days lost through industrial disputes declined in September 1988 to 75,600, less than half the 166,900 working days lost during August 1988. The number of working days lost in New South Wales dropped by 75.6 per cent from 121,100 in August 1988 to 29,500 in September 1988.

There were 20 per cent fewer disputes coming within the scope of the statistics in September 1988 and there was a similar proportionate drop (to 16) in the number of disputes which involved the loss of more than 1,000 working days.

For the 12 months to September 1988 the 1,718,000 days lost was greater than the 1,356,200 and 1,387,200 days recorded for the corresponding periods ended 1987 and 1986 respectively.

The estimates for the current twelve months are affected by the very high numbers of disputes occurring in June and July over National Wage Case increases and also disputes in the coal mining industry

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

The statistics in this publication relate to disputes which involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The statistics of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes only (as defined in paragraph 4). Effects on other establishments, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included. Details shown in this publication refer to disputes *in progress* during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled

mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government), from trade unions and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

#### Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees, or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. Since December 1987, a dispute affecting several establishments has been counted as a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation; otherwise it is counted as a



separate dispute at each establishment and in each industry in which it occurred. Prior to December 1987 disputes were measured differently (see paragraph 10).

5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those who ceased work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are not classified as employees newly involved in stoppages in the second period in which the dispute occurs.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes, working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* are calculated from working days lost and estimates of numbers of employees obtained from the ABS Survey of Employment and Earnings and the ABS Labour Force Survey.

#### Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in Agriculture and in Private households, obtained from the Labour Force Survey. Estimates have been recalculated on this basis for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987, the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

10. The basis for the calculation of the number of disputes was changed in December 1987. Before that date, where the causes of several disputes were the same (e.g. National Wage Case disputes) the disputes were counted as one dispute, irrespective of whether they were directed or organised by one person or organisation, or whether the dispute occurred in more than one industry. The reason for the change was to align the method of counting the number of disputes with ILO guidelines. In accordance with this change in definition, estimates of the number of disputes shown in this bulletin for past periods have been revised. Unpublished estimates of the number of disputes have been revised on this basis from May 1986 and are available on request. The number of employees involved and working days lost remain unchanged.

#### Other ABS publications

11. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information, including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

*Labour Statistics, Australia*, (6101.0)—issued annually

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Trade Union Statistics, Australia*, (6323.0)—issued annually

*Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986* (6325.0)

*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0)—issued quarterly

#### Unpublished statistics

12. In some cases, the ABS can also provide information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer printout, clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section of the inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

13. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- r estimates revised since last issue
- nil or rounded to zero

14. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

#### Electronic services

VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

#### Floppy disk service

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 52 6684.

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TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period		Number of dispute(a)		Employees involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
		Commenced in period	Total(b)	Newly involved(c)	Total(b)	
1987	July	r125	r145	r49.6	r51.4	137.8
	August	r111	r127	39.5	52.1	98.8
	September	r118	r133	60.3	84.9	282.6
	October	r136	151	60.6	64.5	117.6
	November	r160	r181	86.0	97.8	126.7
	December	r96	115	34.8	49.7	86.5
1988	January	81	86	12.2	12.6	29.2
	February	r139	r149	44.0	58.1	100.5
	March	168	187	34.7	41.9	84.8
	April	100	r108	19.8	r21.2	r36.6
	May	147	159	57.4	68.5	101.0
	June	165	186	364.0	374.5	488.3
	July	89	105	117.4	192.0	304.2
	August	142	150	107.0	115.0	166.9
	September	109	120	33.4	49.0	75.6
	Twelve months ended—					
	September 1986	r1,749	r1,769	678.1	686.0	1,387.2
	1987	r1,545	r1,564	r563.5	r568.3	r1,356.2
1988	1,532	1,547	971.3	975.1	1,718.0	
December 1985	1,830	1,845	552.6	570.5	1,256.2	
1986	r1,702	r1,709	673.9	691.7	1,390.7	
1987	r1,499	r1,504	r593.4	r608.8	r1,311.9	

(a) See paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (c) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

		Manufacturing							
		Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
Period		Coal	Other						
1987	July	35.3	10.3	23.9	r14.7	43.0	2.2	8.4	137.8
	August	17.7	6.0	14.2	21.7	11.7	3.6	23.7	98.8
	September	97.9	2.8	23.1	6.8	38.6	4.5	108.9	282.6
	October	15.8	4.4	12.7	13.6	19.5	26.5	25.1	117.6
	November	21.7	1.3	9.9	29.2	5.7	4.2	54.7	126.7
	December	11.5	0.7	6.5	25.9	0.7	26.5	14.6	86.5
1988	January	10.1	0.9	1.3	1.3	7.5	1.5	6.6	29.2
	February	47.4	11.4	8.4	7.6	7.2	3.4	15.1	100.5
	March	34.0	10.3	3.8	8.8	14.9	4.4	8.6	84.8
	April	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.7	6.4	2.9	r16.3	r36.6
	May	27.9	3.9	19.2	5.0	29.4	3.0	12.6	101.0
	June	123.5	5.6	168.1	15.6	64.6	17.4	93.4	488.3
	July	75.5	3.8	66.8	42.3	30.5	20.0	65.3	304.2
	August	17.5	8.3	9.3	13.5	9.4	1.8	107.2	166.9
	September	24.5	6.4	15.8	5.8	8.8	7.0	7.2	75.6
Twelve months ended—									
September	1986	352.1	r197.1	158.1	187.2	119.5	143.7	r229.6	1,387.2
	1987	r294.4	71.6	213.4	184.4	r190.6	38.9	r363.0	r1,356.2
	1988	412.8	60.4	325.6	169.3	204.6	118.4	426.8	1,718.0
December	1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2
	1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7
	1987	r291.8	55.7	199.6	195.5	r194.5	92.5	r282.3	r1,311.9

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1987	July	81.6	25.6	7.7	9.9	3.3	r7.7	0.2	1.7	137.8
	August	22.1	50.3	4.1	5.2	14.7	2.1	—	0.3	98.8
	September	185.9	40.1	9.6	5.3	37.6	2.1	1.1	1.0	282.6
	October	61.2	37.9	3.4	4.1	6.8	1.3	0.4	2.6	117.6
	November	88.6	9.7	16.2	2.5	7.3	1.3	0.2	0.8	126.7
	December	47.6	26.3	2.8	2.5	1.1	5.4	0.2	0.7	86.5
1988	January	9.6	1.6	13.2	0.6	3.4	0.3	0.4	—	29.2
	February	62.7	9.5	7.8	5.3	12.4	0.9	1.2	0.6	100.5
	March	26.5	13.2	21.4	0.7	17.2	3.4	1.4	1.0	84.8
	April	10.7	r13.1	3.3	1.3	5.3	1.5	0.2	1.3	r36.6
	May	39.3	5.8	45.8	2.6	5.1	0.9	0.9	0.6	101.0
	June	269.0	64.7	94.2	23.4	24.8	3.5	1.3	7.4	488.3
	July	55.1	181.8	49.8	4.7	9.7	2.9	—	0.2	304.2
	August	121.1	21.2	6.9	4.1	7.3	3.5	1.7	1.2	166.9
	September	29.5	22.7	12.8	0.6	9.1	0.1	—	0.8	75.6
Twelve months ended—										
September	1986	593.3	r377.4	186.2	42.1	r133.9	27.0	11.1	16.3	1,387.2
	1987	r649.7	r403.0	79.1	45.2	131.9	25.6	7.6	14.2	r1,356.2
	1988	820.9	407.4	277.6	52.4	109.5	25.1	8.0	17.1	1,718.0
December	1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	11.5	17.9	1,256.2
	1986	598.8	381.8	r173.3	r46.3	143.1	29.2	11.8	6.5	1,390.7
	1987	r744.8	r281.4	73.7	44.6	115.3	28.0	6.5	17.5	r1,311.9



TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248
1985	6,898	1,931	255	312	666	432	71	228
1986	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242
Twelve months ended—								
1986—								
September	10,479	3,553	371	302	466	336	59	243
1987—								
September	r8,814	1,401	512	290	r739	91	90	233
October	8,757	1,427	497	281	829	149	91	238
November	8,884	1,283	474	287	808	158	84	231
December	r8,923	1,069	479	305	r743	217	r70	223
1988—								
January	9,243	818	474	302	771	213	69	222
February	9,829	982	481	286	764	216	70	225
March	10,774	1,091	440	280	716	214	71	225
April	10,486	1,076	384	265	705	208	72	218
May	10,500	1,106	336	233	735	201	73	212
June	14,292	1,118	715	234	910	235	93	282
July	15,690	997	819	276	856	278	107	309
August	15,781	1,037	807	264	841	274	126	319
September	13,461	1,101	790	263	728	280	102	285

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

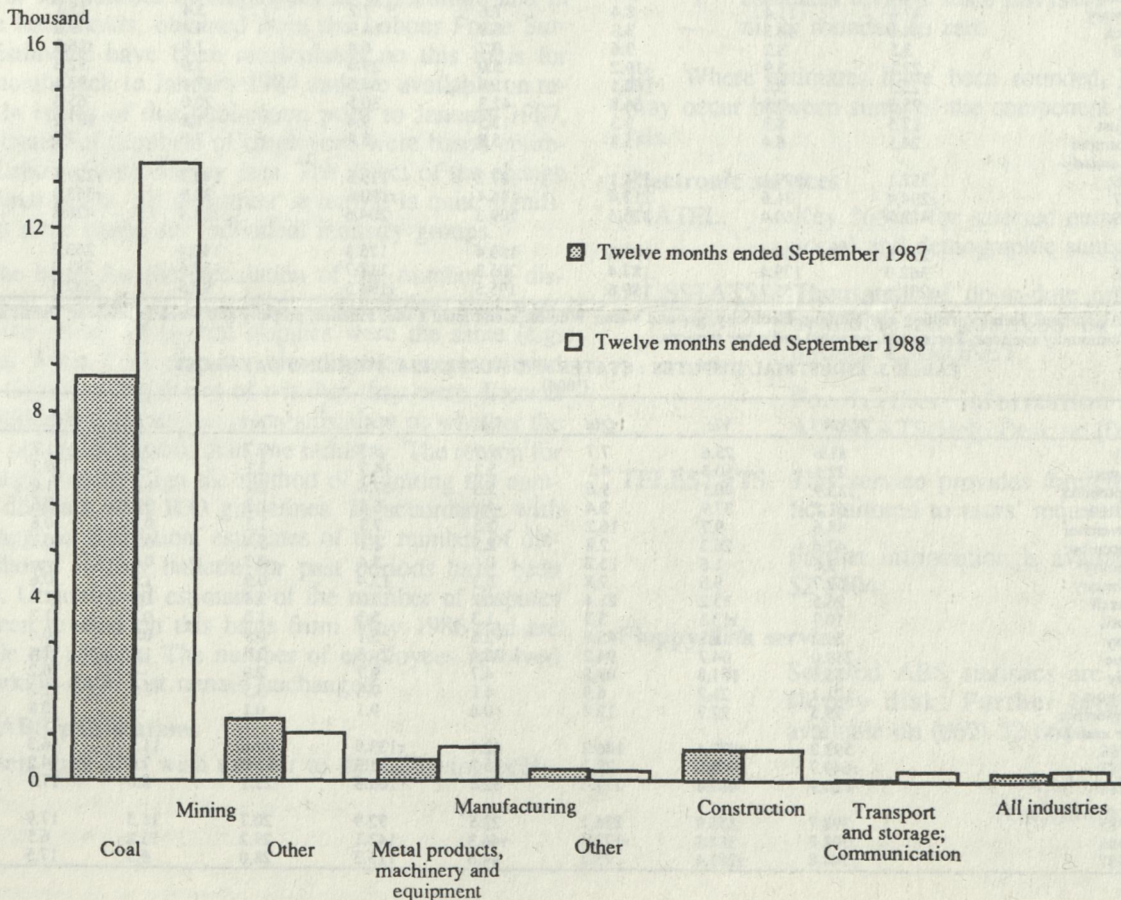




TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1984	357	132	302	r56	256	350	381	88	248
1985	209	236	411	r48	187	138	213	159	228
1986	304	240	207	r96	272	190	199	55	242
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>									
<i>1986—</i>									
September	303	239	223	r88	257	176	190	139	243
<i>1987—</i>									
September	299	235	94	92	243	162	126	116	233
October	309	240	91	96	242	160	116	134	238
November	328	198	90	93	235	148	110	138	231
December	r341	r159	87	91	212	177	111	143	223
<i>1988—</i>									
January	336	162	101	90	192	177	115	134	222
February	343	156	107	100	208	180	124	108	225
March	335	151	129	97	218	194	136	104	225
April	314	151	129	96	221	191	115	100	218
May	293	139	173	90	225	181	120	103	212
June	403	165	268	126	257	195	134	145	282
July	389	252	317	116	269	164	131	132	309
August	431	235	319	113	255	174	162	139	319
September	386	244	322	104	203	161	143	136	285

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

